THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING ED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MS AF,

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 MARCH

Atty. Docket #: 5899*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Lothar Eggeling et al.

SERIAL NO: 09/914,006

ART UNIT: 1652

FILED: January 7, 2002

EXAMINER: C. Fronda

FOR: "Method for Microbially Producing L-Valine"

MS AF **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed December 22, 2005, the time for a response to which is set to expire on March 22, 2005. Please amend the aboveidentified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.